

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 SAJ-01

SAB-01 /098 W

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R 231530Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6677

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9470

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF SINAI II AGREEMENT

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1. SUMMARY: GOE STRATEGY IN DEFENSE OF SINAI II AGREEMENT

IN FACE OF CONTINUING ARAB OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO CONSIST OF:

(A) DETERMINED REITERATION BY HIGHEST LEVEL OFFICIALS OF JUSTIFICATION FOR SIGNATURE AND REASSURANCE THAT EGYPT HAS NOT MADE SEPARATE PEACE NOR DESERTED ARAB OR PALESTINIAN CAUSE; (B) ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN WITHIN EGYPT TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT AMONG POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS AND OPINION MAKERS; AND (C) SELECTIVE COVERAGE OF EXTERNAL EVENTS TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR WISDOM OF EGYPTIAN STRATEGY, CONDEMNATION OF SOVIETS AND PAINTING U.S. IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT WHILE SHOWING EGYPT IS NO U.S. "STOOGES". EGYPTIAN STRATEGY IS HANDICAPPED BY FAILURE OF MANY GOVERNMENTS WHICH SUPPORT AGREEMENT TO TAKE PUBLIC STAND, BY INORDINATE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY GIVEN EVEN SMALLEST, MOST RADICAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS, AND TOUGH STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS REPORTED DAILY ON SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS BY SADAT AND FAHMY AS WELL AS OTHER HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS LED BY PRIMIN SALIM, WHO ARE TOURING COUNTRY AND SPEAKING TO MILITARY, STUDENTS, WORKERS AND OTHER GROUPS. SPOKESMEN CONTINUE TO JUSTIFY STRATEGY IN TERMS OF ACHIEVING RETURN OF ARAB LAND THROUGH "STRICTLY MILITARY" AGREEMENT WITHOUT SACRIFICING ARAB RIGHTS OR COMPROMISING FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS. REJECTIONSISTS ARE INCREASINGLY ATTACKED AS TOOLS OF FOREIGN ELEMENTS (I.E. SOVIETS AND LIBYANS) OR VICTIMS OF INTRA-BAATH RIVALRY.

3. EDITORIAL WRITERS OF ALL MAJOR PAPERS ARE MOBILIZED TO SUPPORT DAILY STATEMENTS BY GOE SPOKESMEN AND TO REPLY TO SPECIFIC CRITICISMS FROM SYRIANS, PALESTINIANS AND OTHERS. MASS RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE BEING STEPPED UP. ON SEPT 21 "50,000" EGYPTIAN WORKERS MARCHED TO PRESENT DOCUMENT TO PRES SADAT CONVEYING "IN THE NAME OF MILLIONS OF EGYPTIAN WORKERS" AN UNQUALIFIED PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION OF 100,000 PEASANTS IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 25 TO GIVE ALLEGIANCE TO SADAT AT ABDIN PALACE FOLLOWED BY MEETING AT ASU WITH FIRST SECRETARY MAHGOUB.

4. GOE MEDIA HAS SPOTLIGHTED INFORMATION IN DEFENSE OF ITS POSITION; E.G. SECRETARY'S UNGA SPEECH WAS GIVEN PARTICULARLY HEAVY PLAY (SEPTEL). IT HAS DOWN PLAYED POTENTIALLY DAMAGING CONFIDENTIAL

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STORIES; I.G. FACE-TO-FACE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THESE "STRICTLY MILITARY" TALKS BARELY MENTIONED.

5. AS REGARDS U.S. , MEDIA HAS ATTEMPTED BOTH TO COUNTER ACCUSATIONS THAT EGYPT HAS BECOME U.S. "STOOGES" BY CRITICIZING PROPOSED U.S. F-16'S AND PERSHING MISSILE SALES TO ISRAEL; AND PUT US IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT BY MAKING EXAGGERATED CLAIMS ABOUT FUTURE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HIGHLIGHTING PRES FORD'S

STATEMENT THAT U.S. WOULD NOT MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO ANY STATE IN MIDDLE EAST, AND RESURRECTING, AS RECENTLY AS SEPT 23, THE "MEETING" OF PRES FORD WITH PLO REP AT BUCHAREST AIRPORT IN AUGUST, SUGGESTING THAT ROMANIA IS ACTING AS U.S. INTERMEDIARY WITH PLO.

6. PRESS HAS BEEN HARD PUT TO FIND CLEAR EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH CARRY REAL WEIGHT IN EGYPTIAN AND ARAB CONTEXTS. ACCORDING TO INFO AVAILABLE HERE SUDAN IS ONLY ARAB STATE WHICH HAS GIVEN UNQUALIFIED PUBLIC SUPPORT TO AGREEMENT; SYRIA AND IRAQ PUBLICLY OPPOSED; SAUDI ARABIA AND MOROCCO HAVE GIVEN TEPID SUPPORT; CONTROLLED PRESS IN ALGERIA, LIBYA, PDRY, AND JORDAN INDICATE OPPOSITION; AND FROM ALL THE REST, DESPITE PRIVATE ASSERTIONS OF SUPPORT, THERE HAS BEEN A PUBLIC SILENCE. SUPPORT OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WAS GIVEN ONLY MODERATE COVERAGE AND SUPPORT FROM COUNTRIES FURTHER AWAY SUCH AS SINGAPORE, NIGERIA, KENYA, MALAYSIA, SIERRA LEONE AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING. STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM YUGOSLAVIA, SUDAN AND INDIA WERE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE. MOST EUROPEAN SUPPORT, E.G. FRG AND DUTCH, WHILE APPRECIATED, WAS CONSIDERED UNUSABLE IN PUBLIC CONFRONTATION WITH ARAB CRITICS, SINCE THESE STATES ARE IN ARAB EYES PRO-ISRAEL.

7. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE GOE IS DUNCUTING ITS PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN WITHIN EGYPT VIGOROUSLY AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WIDESPREAD DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT (CAIRO 8939) HAS DIMINISHED AS RESULT OF EXTERNAL OPPOSITION. FAILURE OF MODERATE ARAB STATES TO TAKE PUBLIC POSITION HAS, HOWEVER, UNQUESTIONABLY UNDERMINED GOE CAMPAIGN ABROAD, SINCE MORE AND MORE GOVERNMENTS CITE UNWILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED IN INTRA-ARAB DISPUTE AS REASON FOR NOT MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT. THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO IS GRIST FOR THE MILL OF ARAB CRITICS WHO CHARGE EGYPT WITH HAVING ISOLATED ITSELF FROM ARAB

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AUSE AND, AS SUCH, IS WORRISOME. SO IS WEAKENING OF GOE INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD WHICH CURRENT INTER-ARAB CONFLICT OVER AGREEMENT COULD PORTEND.

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